



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL
AT KAUFMAN CENTER
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

UpBeat

Monthly Calendar & Newsletter

SPECIAL ISSUE
"Music Lives Forever"
Words and Music
by Sean Hartley,
on page 5!

november 2011

❖ mark your calendar ❖

November 1, Tuesday

8:45 a.m. 1st Grade Coffee With Katie

November 2, Wednesday

6:30 p.m. SMS Open House

November 3, Thursday

9:00 a.m. Kindergarten Coffee With Katie

November 4, Friday

8:30 a.m. Town Hall Meeting

November 6, Sunday

Daylight Savings Time begins

November 7, Monday

8:45 a.m. 3rd Grade Coffee With Katie

November 8, Tuesday

NO SCHOOL, Election Day

November 9, Wednesday

8:15 a.m. Grades 7 & 8 Coffee With Katie

November 11, Friday

NO SCHOOL, Veteran's Day

November 15, Tuesday

8:45 a.m. PTA Executive Board Meeting
Half-Day/Early dismissal, PT conferences

November 17, Thursday

3:00 p.m. SLT Meeting

November 23, Wednesday

NO KARATE

**November 24 and 25,
Thursday and Friday**

NO SCHOOL. Thanksgiving

November 28, Monday

8:45 a.m. PTA General Meeting
5:30 p.m. Winter's Eve at TD Bank

November 29, Tuesday

Grade 3 Evaluations

For Dates and Times on Community Service
Concerts and Performance Classes, see the
SMS 2011-2012 Google Calendar.

MUSIC DIRECTOR *Jenny Undercofler*

"November is a significant month for music with the first master class, (Martha Mooke, viola/strings/electronics, on November 9th), the first Community Service Concert (the 8th grade, on November 16th), and the first Evaluations (3rd grade, on November 29th). Face the Music also kicks into gear with concerts at Hudson View Gardens (November 20th, 2 PM) and St. Malachy's Church (November 21st, 7 PM). Good luck to everyone, and **Happy practicing!**

PTA CO-PRESIDENTS *Silvia & Yvonne*



On October 12, fourteen of Special Music School's alumni attended the SMS Alumni Q & A. Alumni represented LaGuardia, Bard Manhattan, Beacon, Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, Frank Sinatra, Murrow, City College HS, and The Professional Children's School. The discussions were open and quite informative. This was a great way for current SMS students and parents to get to know "the real story" of the transition to High School. **Thank You** to Alex Brown and Jenny Undercofler for organizing this event.

MK TRIO WOWS the SMS Community and raises over \$1500 for SMS. **Thank You** Kristy, Melissa and Mary for a fabulous evening. Also, Thank You to Tony and Natanya for keeping up with the dynamic trio and pulling it all together. We look forward to many more MK Trio revues!

PTA CO-VPS FUNDRAISING: *Nora, Natanya & Jhoanna*

HALLOWEEN PARTY **Thank You** to the SMS community for making this past Saturday's Halloween Party such a success! Though the weather outside was *frightful*, the mood inside was *delightful*. Your creative costumes, delicious food, and rockin' dance moves helped melt the snow and make the night truly fun!

A special thank you to the many volunteers who made this event possible by giving their time in planning, setting up, welcoming guests, bringing food, staffing tables, serving food/drinks, running activities, cleaning up, and in many other ways. The PTA is grateful for your time and energy, and for your dedication to your school community! A special thank you, also, to Amelia Demayo and the SMS Drama Club for their entertaining performance!

❖ Middle School Minute ❖

Welcome to Middle School Minute, the column where you get the news from a student's perspective! Each month, a Student Council member will give their unique outlook on the middle school experience. You'll get to look behind-the-scenes at Student Council, and you'll hear about events and ideas from their source.

It's November, and students are finally settling into the rhythm of school. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders recently picked their representatives to Student Council in an election held about a week ago. After listening to speeches by all candidates, students filled out ballots with their choices. After a painstakingly long wait, the results were revealed:

President Branch Freeman
Vice-President Alec Manasse
Secretary Violet Murmur
Treasurer Irene Chun
Social Promoters Benjamin Goldstein and Francis Condon

Class representatives were elected separately by each class:

6th Grade Sofia Bellimova
7th Grade Tamar Benami
8th Grade Taylor Joines

The group first met on Friday, October 21, where they set up some ground rules and discussed their goals for the year. We talked about ways we could reduce stress on students and make certain tasks easier. We also thought of ways to increase transparency, and involve the student body more in the decisions of the Council. For example, we discussed releasing the Minutes from each meeting. We hope that by making small changes like this, Student Council can expand beyond the group itself, and become a productive and creative part of the SMS community.

Branch Freeman, *President*

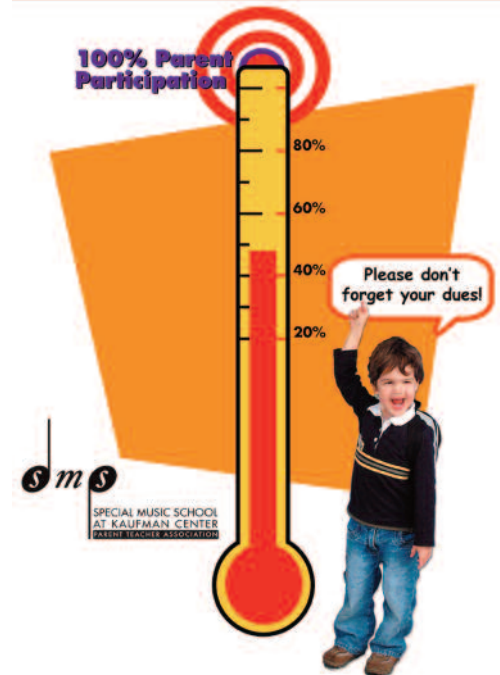
PTA Dues: 44% & Rising

Our goal is 100% Family Participation. Please send in your dues today. If you have already done so, **Thank You!**

If you have any questions about your financial contributions to the SMS, please contact the SMS PTA Co-Treasurers at smspta.treasurer@gmail.com.

Every Family Counts!
 Please Support the PTA Today.

SMS PTA DUES REPORT STATUS



The DOE 2011-2012

Academic Calendar available at
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Calendar/default.html>

Kaufman Center Update for November 2011: **Gina Napolitano**

Greetings from the KC Development Department. Thank you all for your continued support of the Special Music School at Kaufman Center. The SMS Parent community is such a steadfast group of supporters to the Center, and I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful resources your support helps us to sustain.

Music is everywhere at Kaufman Center, providing students and their families with opportunities to deepen their learning by experiencing music in a variety of ways. Your whole family becomes a part of the larger artistic community here: as an SMS parent, you can participate in our faculty/staff

chorus. Students and their siblings can take classes at the Lucy Moses School, and family members and friends of all ages can attend our concerts at Merkin Concert Hall. Beyond the Lucy Moses School and the Concert Hall, Kaufman Center's building provides access to the renovated Birnbaum Music Library with valuable music resources and a facility equipped with classrooms and spaces for both educational activities and performance. The Kaufman Center's distinguished conservatory-quality faculty members are not only highly regarded educators – they are also accomplished musicians, performing on our stage and in professional venues all

over the city, the country, and around the world!

Behind the scenes, we at Kaufman Center are committed to keeping this place running with its many essential parts. I hope you will continue to strengthen your involvement here by giving your time and financial support in whatever way you can. You are a part of this community of lifelong learning in the arts and we are all involved with sustaining this vital institution.

Gina Napolitano

Development Associate
gnapolitano@kaufman-center.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR HAPPENINGS: *Emily John*

In addition to the wonderful school-wide choral concert on Wednesday December 21st, the middle school choirs have a few exciting projects scheduled for this year.

Rienzi

The 5th grade and middle school girls have been invited to sing the role of the *Friedensboten* (Messengers of Peace) in the Opera Orchestra of New York's presentation of Wagner's *Rienzi*. The opera will be performed on Sunday, January 29th at 2pm at Avery Fisher Hall. This is a really wonderful opportunity, as we will get to sing Wagner's rich harmonies with a great orchestra and an assortment of professional soloists.

The Messengers of Peace enter shortly into the 2nd act, proclaiming *Jauchzet, ihr Täler, frohlockt, ihr Berge! Denn Friede is gekommen, der Freiheit Licht gewonnen.* Translation: *Rejoice valleys, be jubilant, mountains! Peace is come, the light of freedom is won.*

Mozart

In June, the middle school choirs will, again, perform an afternoon concert as a guest choir at the Trinity Wall Street Church in lower Manhattan. We will be performing some short works by Mozart, including *Regina Coeli*, K. 276. All are welcome to attend this free, public concert on Wednesday June 20th at 1pm.

Emily John

TIGHTENING OUR BELTS, LITERALLY: *Rina Kofman*

You may or may not have spotted us at drop-off: several mommies, outfitted in Lycra and Spandex of varying shades and sneakers, eagerly kissing their offspring good-bye and bounding away, park-ward, in small groups of three and four. Admittedly, we are a small enough group to go unnoticed, but, what we are is a rotating roster of moms, who get together several times a week to egg each other on, while running various loops and paths in Central Park.

The run was started last year when Kristy Glass and Melissa Attebury eyed each other's running gear one morning and decided to join forces in training for a half marathon. In the spirit of camaraderie and the notion, perhaps, that misery loves company, they've been steadily inviting more moms into the fold. While not all of us are training for a specific race, we are showing up at least twice a week (usually Tuesdays and Fridays), and putting in mile after mile together, everyone at her own pace and distance. On Wednesdays after school Kristy brings the kids to the Park and

airs them out a bit with some circuits that include running and other activities. My own experience with the run has been great. Before this fall, I had not run very regularly for over 15 years and never more than a couple of miles, but, these women are so good at distraction, by way of chatting you up and cheering you on, that before I knew it I was running longer distances than ever before. In fact, I've become somewhat addicted to it and am running, on my own, every chance I get.

The run has also been a good way for some of us to get to know each other, catch up, and, naturally, gossip. And, all the other good things you've heard about running are true: more energy during the day, better moods and you know what else. Last week I had a banner day when I was able to tighten my belt one hole smaller. And, if an inveterate couch potato like me can do it, so can you.

So, if you have the luxury of not needing to be anywhere on any particular weekday mornings, please join us. Spandex not required.

Rina Kofman

Ep's NOVEMBER SOUND IDEAS

In place of a movie, consider listening to an amazing symphony at home with your family. Make a bowl of popcorn, sit back, and enjoy! If you like the visual aspect of things, you can find full scores of many works in the local libraries; as the 7th graders will attest, following a score brings a whole new dimension to listening.

To get you started with some ideas of composers and pieces, here is a list of a few composers, with birthdays in November, and a recommended piece.

Vincenzo Bellini (Nov 3, 1801)

"Casta diva" from *Norma* "Ah! non credea mirarti" from *La Sonnambula*

John Phillip Sousa (Nov 6, 1854)

Washington Post March or Stars and Stripes Forever

Aaron Copland (Nov 14, 1900)

Many options – listening Appalachian Spring, Rodeo, Billy the Kid etc.

Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn

(Nov 14, 1805)

Piano Trio in D minor, op. 11

Benjamin Britten (Nov 22, 1913)

- Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (for an introduction to orchestral instruments)
- Hymn to St. Cecilia or Rejoice in the Lamb (amazingly interesting choral works)
- Lachrymae (a haunting work for viola)

Jean Baptiste Lully (Nov 28, 1632)

Overture to *Thésée* (or any overtures to his delightful operas)

What's your favorite work by a composer born in November?

amazon.com

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FIRST GRADE FOLLIES: *Rebecca Mintiens (formerly Harig)*

In Social Studies, we covered a unit entitled "How our Families are Different." It lent itself well to creating time lines and family trees. The students brought in pictures from every year of their lives and then wrote a sentence that described what was happening in the picture. Then they arranged the pictures in chronological order. This was a great opportunity to practice time and verb tenses (past and present). The project culminated by the students creating a wax resist piece that showed what they would like to be when they grow up, and they also composed a sentence in case it was not obvious what their future dreams were. When the students completed this project they worked on their family trees. We read a book about a little girl who makes her own family tree and I modeled how one might look, but I did not force them to use a specific form. What resulted was simply amazing. It was very clear how the students viewed themselves in relation to their families (some students put themselves in the middle and their

families very close to them all around, some students put parents in the middle and relatives all around, and others used the model that I showed). I found the results of both projects very interesting and I was extremely happy with the outcome of the learning experience.

The beginning of the year is always hard for students, teachers, and parents. It takes time to get back into the routine, and meet new names and faces. It was a wonderful way for me to see into the lives of these new first graders. As we finished up these projects a student asked me, "What do you want to be when you grow up Ms. Rebecca?" This statement not only melted my heart, but made my day. It truly showed that the students had that hope that you can be whatever you want and you can always change your mind later.

Please come and take a peek at the beautiful work! These projects will only be up until the end of this week.

Rebecca Mintiens

december 2011

❖ looking ahead ❖

December 1, Thursday

Grade 2 Evaluations

December 2, Friday

Grades K, 2 and 3 Concerts

December 5, Monday

Grade 4 Evaluations

December 6, Tuesday

Grade 7 Evaluations

December 7, Wednesday

6:30 p.m. SMS Open House

December 8, Thursday

Grade 1 Evaluations

December 9, Friday

Grades 1, 4 and 7 Concerts

December 12, Monday

Grade 8 Evaluations

December 13, Tuesday

Grade 5 Evaluations

December 14, Wednesday

8:45 a.m. PTA Executive Board Meeting

December 15, Thursday

Grade 6 Evaluations

December 16, Friday

Grades 5, 6 and 8 Concerts

December 21, Wednesday

Winter Choral Concert

December 22, Thursday

8:45 a.m. PTA General Meeting

December 26, 2011 through January 2, 2012

NO SCHOOL -- Winter Break

For Dates and Times on Community Service Concerts and Performance Classes, see the SMS 2011-2012 Google Calendar.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Interested in planning fun events for the Special Music School families? Volunteers are needed to help the PTA plan some community-building fundraisers. Ideas include a Parents' Night Out and a Family Movie Night. To share your ideas and/or to volunteer, please email fundraisingsms@gmail.com.

T-shirts, hats, satchels . . . Have an idea for an item to bear the SMS logo? Parent volunteers are needed to help coordinate SMS merchandise fundraising, coordinating the development and sale of fun and useful merchandise to the SMS community. E-mail fundraisingsms@gmail.com to share your ideas and to volunteer.

Parent volunteers are needed to help coordinate the annual PTA School Photo Fundraiser. This fundraiser, usually held in January, is a partnership with a professional photographer (and SMS parent) to provide school portraits for families while raising money for the PTA. E-mail fundraisingsms@gmail.com to share your ideas and to volunteer.



Clip your Box Tops 4 Education coupons and drop them off at one of the convenient containers around the school. It's fast, it's easy and it's **FREE MONEY FOR THE SMS PTA**. For more information on Box Tops 4 Education and a complete list of participating products, go to www.boxtops4education.com.

SMS Student Directories have been distributed. Please check your entries and make sure all information is correct. Email any changes you may have to specialmusicsschoolpta@gmail.com.

Music Lives Forever

Music and Lyrics by Sean Hartley

Andante, not too slow

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a long, sustained note on the final line.

Teach a child a song, She'll sing her whole life long. A toy you lose, But
mus-ic leaves you nev - er. Those who sing in this world Sing in the next,
— And what you sing to - day Will nev-er go a - way For mus - ic lives for -
ev - er, — Yes, mus - ic lives for - ev - - - er. So give me
mus-ic, Beau - ti-ful mus-ic. Sing, ev-'ry bod-y, Let the earth re-sound. Mus-ic, Beau -
ti-ful mus-ic! Oh, what a heav-en-ly sound! When the trum - pets call And the
cym-bals ring And peo-ple start to sing, Oh, mus - ic lives for - ev - er,
— Yes, mus-ic lives for - ev - - - er, Yes, mus - ic lives for -
ev - - - - - er!

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